

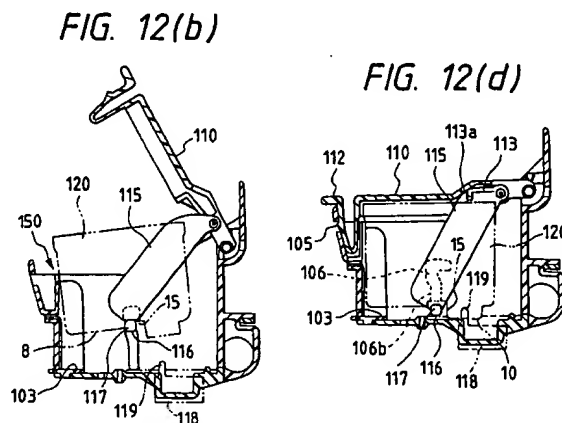
REMARKS

An Office Action dated March 19, 2004 allows claims 17-20 and rejects claims 26-46. Claims 26, 37 and 42 have been amended herein. Reconsideration is respectfully requested in light of the amendments and the following remarks.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC § 102(e)

Applicants respectfully traverse the examiner's rejection of claims 26-46 as being anticipated by Miyazawa et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,250,750). Miyazawa et al. discloses a fundamentally different structure.

As explained more fully in the specification of the present application and earlier amendments, among other benefits, the carriage assembly of the present application provides an on-axis ink reservoir that allows easy and independent access to both the ink reservoir and the printhead without requiring removal of the ink reservoir from its secured position in order to gain access to the printhead. In contrast and as shown in the below figures, Miyazawa et al. discloses an ink cartridge alignment and capture structure that does not allow removal of a printhead without first removing the ink reservoir.



FIGS. 12(b) and 12(d) of Miyazawa et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,250,750).

In particular, Miyazawa et al. teaches inserting an ink cartridge 120 into a carriage 101 with an open carriage cover body 110 as shown in FIG. 12(b) such that the lower portion of the ink cartridge engages a support rod 117, which has been lifted by a lifter 115 extending between the support rod 117 and the carriage cover body 110. By placing the carriage cover body 110 in its closed position as shown in

FIG. 12(d), the support rod 117 and connected ink cartridge are guided into the carriage. The carriage cover body includes a catching piece 112 to detachably hold the carriage cover body in its closed position, thereby securing the ink cartridge 120 within the carriage.

FIGS. 12(a)-(d) of Miyazawa et al., show that the "recording head" 118 can be removed from above the carriage only when the ink cartridge 120 is completely removed from the carriage 101. There is no teaching or suggestion in Miyazawa et al., or any other references of record, to provide a structure that allows an ink reservoir to remain in a secured position on the carriage while still allowing access to the corresponding printhead therebelow.

The examiner has taken the position that the "printhead (in Miyazawa) may be accessed from above the printhead mounting portion (printhead 118 may be accessed from above since cartridge 120 is not engaged with printhead 118) without removing said ink reservoir from said secured position on said ink reservoir mounting portion. . . ." (emphasis added).

Applicants respectfully dispute the examiner's interpretation of Miyazawa as somehow showing that the printhead may be "accessed" without first removing the cartridge 120. Figs. 12(a)-(d) in Miyazawa clearly show that that no access to the underlying printhead may be achieved without first entirely removing the cartridge 120 from its mount as shown in FIG. 12(a) of Miyazawa.

Nevertheless, in order to further clarify this distinction between the disclosed structures in Miyazawa and the present invention, applicants have revised claims 26, 37, and 42 to establish that the printhead is removable from its printhead mounting portion without first requiring the removal of the ink reservoir from its secured position on the ink reservoir mounting portion.

Neither Miyazawa, nor any other references of record, teach or suggest such a structure. As previously noted and as best shown in FIG. 12(a) of Miyazawa, to the extent the printheads could be removed in Miyazawa, such removal can only be accomplished by first removing the cartridge 120.

Since Miyazawa neither teaches nor suggests such a structure, it cannot anticipate independent claims 26, 37 and 42 and they should now be allowed.

Moreover, since dependent claims 27-36, 38-41, and 42-46 depend on now allowable claims 26, 37, or 42, they too should now be in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC § 103

Applicants respectfully traverse the examiner's rejection of claims 31, 32, 45, and 46 as being rendered obvious by Miyazawa et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,250,750) in view of Oda et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,552,816).


None of these references, alone or in combination, teach or suggest the elements of the present claims. As previously noted, Miyazawa discloses an ink cartridge alignment and capture structure that does not allow independent removal of a printhead from above the carriage without first removing an ink reservoir. Similarly, Oda discloses conventional drop-in type ink cartridge mount that does not allow an on-axis ink reservoir to remain seated in its mount while a printhead is being removed.

Since these teachings are missing from these references of record, they cannot render claims 31, 32, 45, and 46 obvious.

In view of the foregoing amendments and discussion, applicants submit that all of the currently pending claims are in condition for allowance, and respectfully requests that the case be passed to issuance. If the Examiner has any questions, he is invited to contact applicants' attorney at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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By 
John R. Dawson
Registration No. 39,504

ipsolon llp
805 SW Broadway # 2740
Portland, Oregon 97205
Phone No. (503) 419-0702
Fax No. (503) 249-7068
E-Mail: john@ipsolon.com